

Remarks

The Applicants respectfully submit the above amendments to overcome rejections made in the Examiner's July 30, 2004 Office Action. In that Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the pending independent claims (1 and 34) would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of dependent claims 3, 4 and 6, and 34, 44 and 45 respectively, including the limitations of any intervening claims. On September 23, 2004, the Applicants submitted a proposed amendment to claim 1 for the Examiner's approval, which was promptly provided.

The proposed amendment to claim 1 is presented herein for entry. Independent claim 34 has been amended in a similar fashion and is also presented for entry. Dependent claims 2-6, 33-34, and 43-45 have been canceled.

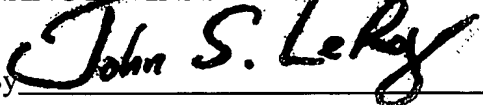
Summary

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

No additional fee is believed to be due as the result of the filing of this paper. However, any additional fees or credits should be applied to Deposit Account 06-1510 (Ford Global Technologies, Inc.) as authorized by the original transmittal letter in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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